

August 17, 2000 MOHINI MOHAN BORAH
Ecology Laboratory,
Department of Zoology, Cotton College,
Guwahati 781 001, Assam, India.

SABITRY BORDOLOI
E/5, Professor's Quarters,
Dighalipukhuri East, Ambari,
Guwahati 781 001, Assam, India.

REFERENCES

- ANNANDALE, N. (1912): Zoological results of the Abor expedition (1911-1912). I. Batrachia. *Rec. Indian Mus.* 8(1): 7-36.
- BOULENGER, G.A. (1890): The Fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma. Reptilia and Batrachia. Taylor and Francis, London: xviii+541 pp.
- BORDOLOI, S.C. & M.M. BORAH (1999): First record of *Hoplobatrachus crassus* (Jerdon 1853) from north eastern region in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 96(1): 158-159.
- CHANDA, S.K. (1994): Anura (Amphibia) of North Eastern India. *Mem. Zool. Surv. India.* 18: 1-143.
- DUTTA, S.K. (1997): Amphibians of India and Sri Lanka (Checklist and Bibliography). Odyssey Publishing House, Bhubaneswar. ix + 1-342.
- KHARE, M.K. & KIYASETUO (1986): A new record of frog, *Chirixalus vittatus* (Boulenger, 1887) from north eastern hills of India. *Zoologica orientalis.* 3(1 & 2): 47-49.
- MYRES, N. (1988): Threatened biotas: "hotspots" in tropical forests. *The Environmentalist* 8: 1-20.
- PILLAI, R.S. & S.K. CHANDA (1977): Two new species of frogs (Ranidae) from Khasi Hills, India. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 74(1): 136-295.
- SARKAR, A.K. & D.P. SANYAL (1985): Amphibia. *Rec. Zool. Surv. India* 82 (1-4): 285-295.

24. NEW RECORD OF *SAURIDA WANESIO* SHINDO & YAMADA,
 (OSTEICHTHYES: MYCTOPHIFORMES: SYNODIDAE*) FROM THE
 WEST BENGAL COAST, WITH A NOTE ON *LUTJANUS SANGUINEUS* (CUVIER)
 (OSTEICHTHYES : PERCIFORMES : LUTJANIDAE)

One specimen of *Saurida wanesio* Shindo & Yamada and two of *Lutjanus sanguineus* (Cuvier) were collected from a mini trawler, at the fish landing point in Maohana, Digha, West Bengal (21° 36' N, 87° 30' E), on November 26, 1996.

This is the first catch of *Saurida wanesio* from the West Bengal coast. Fischer and Whitehead (1974) noted its occurrence only in South and East China seas. Dutt and Sagar (1981), however, reported the species from Karwar, on the west coast of India. Talwar and Kacker (1984) also support the views of Dutt and Sagar (1981). Talwar *et al.* (1992) did not include the species in the FAUNA OF WEST BENGAL.

Hence, the present collection of *S. wanesio* is the first record from the West Bengal coast, and probably a new record from the east Indian waters.

Occurrence of *Lutjanus sanguineus* (Cuvier) in the coastal waters of West Bengal has been

reported by Misra (1959) and its distribution in the northeastern part of the Indian Ocean is mentioned by Fischer and Whitehead (1974), but Talwar *et al.* (1992) criticised these records as they are not based on material collected from the area.

Talwar *et al.* (op. cit.), therefore, did not include the species in the Fauna of West Bengal. The present report of the species *L. sanguineus* in the coastal waters of West Bengal, based on two specimens, supports the views of Misra (op. cit.), and Fischer and Whitehead (op. cit.).

We are grateful to the Director, Zoological Survey of India for permission to carry out the work.

March 10, 2000

S. KAR,

R. CHAKRABORTY

Zoological Survey of India,
F.P.S. Building, 27, J.L. Nehru Road,
Kolkata 700 016, West Bengal, India.

*Same as Synodontidae

REFERENCES

- DUTT, S. & J.V. SAGAR (1981): *Saurida pseudotumbil*, a new species of lizard fish (Teleostei: Synodidae) from Indian Coastal Waters. *Indian. Nat. Sci. Acad. B* 47, No. 6: 845-851.
- FISHER, W. & P.J.P. WHITEHEAD (EDS) (1974): FAO species identification sheets for fishery purposes. Eastern Indian Ocean (fishing area 57) and Western Central Pacific (fishing area 71) (FAO : Rome). Vol. II and IV.
- MISRA, K.S. (1959): An aid to the identification of the common commercial fishes of India and Pakistan. *Rec. Ind. Mus.* 57: 1-320. (Published in 1962).
- TALWAR, P.K. & R.K. KACKER (1984): Handbook: Commercial Sea fishes of India. Edited by the Director, Zoological Survey of India. pp. 1-997.
- TALWAR, P.K., P. MUKHERJEE, D. SAHA, S.N. PAUL & S. KAR (1992): Marine and estuarine fishes. State Fauna Series 3: Fauna of West Bengal, Part 2. pp. 243-342.

25. ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *NEMACHEILUS KERALENSIS* (RITA ET AL.) IN MUVATTUPUZHA RIVER, KERALA, INDIA

Oreonectes (Indoreonectes) keralensis (= *Nemacheilus keralensis*) was described from Pampadumpara area of the Periyar river, south Kerala (Rita *et al.* 1978). The fish has very narrow, ill-defined vertical bands from dorsal to ventral surface, often split below the lateral line into several streaks or spots, a black mark at dorsal fin origin and a narrow stripe, or two spots on base of caudal fin. It is endemic to Kerala (Talwar and Jhingran 1991, Jayaram 1999), recorded only from the high altitude areas of the Periyar river. Raju Thomas *et al.* (1999) recorded it from the Eravikulam National Park.

During our survey of the fish fauna of the Western Ghats in Kerala, we collected eight specimens of *Nemacheilus keralensis* from the Kaitapara area of Kaliyar tributary in the Muvattupuzha river (Idukki district). The water temperature at the collection sites was 16-21 °C, which may be crucial to its survival. While sampling, the velocity of the water was 32-41 cm/sec. The stream was very small, 3-4 m wide and 15-20 cm deep. Gravel, cobblestones and rock were

the major components of the substrate at the collection site. The water was clear (DO value = 6.5-7 ppm).

We thank Dr. K. Rema Devi, Scientist, ZSI, Chennai for confirming our identification; the US Fish and Wildlife Service for funds under the project "Ecology of hill streams of the Western Ghats with special reference to fish community", sponsored by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt of India.

March 31, 2000

K. RAJU THOMAS,
*C.R. BIJU

*Bombay Natural History Society,
Hornbill House, S.B. Singh Road,
Mumbai 400 023, Maharashtra, India.*

**Present address: Chemmandaparambil (H),
P.O. Chembuchira 680 684, Thrissur district,
Kerala, India.*

M. JOHN GEORGE

*Mar Thoma College for Women, Perumbavoor,
Pin 683 542, Ernakulam district,
Kerala, India.*

REFERENCES

- JAYARAM, K.C. (1999): Freshwater fishes of the Indian Region, Narendra Publishing House, New Delhi.
- RAJU THOMAS, K., C.R. BIJU, C.R. AJITHKUMAR & M. JOHN GEORGE (1999): Ichthyofauna of Eravikulam National Park with notes on trout culture in Rajamalai, Munnar, Kerala. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 96(2): 199-202.
- RITA, S.D., P. BANARESCU & T.T. NALBANT (1978): *Oreonectes (Indoreonectes) keralensis* — a new subgenus and species of loach from Kerala, India (Pisces, Cobitidae). *Trav. Mus. Hist. nat.* 19: 185-188.
- TALWAR, P.K. & A.G. JHINGRAN (1991): Inland Fishes of India and adjacent countries. Oxford & IBH, New Delhi.